THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. The whole country will benefit from the project. However, the alignment of highways passes through 17 States in the country.

Inter-connection of Metro cities with NHs

5452. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to connect all the metropolitan cities through National Highways by 2003;

(b) if so, the names of those metropolitan cities which are still not inter connected by National Highways;

(c) whether the safety aspect on National Highways have been grossly ignored by the Union Government since the past several years resulting frequent robberies and plundering of vehicles; and

(d) if so, whether Government in consultation with State Government would formulate any strategy to deal the situation, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) All the metropolitan cities in the country are already connected through national highways.

(c) No, Sir, as far as the Ministry is concerned.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of NHs in Orissa with World Bank assistance

5453. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads which have been taken over from Orissa by the Central Government to be constructed and developed as the National Highway with the World Bank assistance;

(b) whether Government have taken over Panikauli Rajamunda road in Orissa as the National Highway and proposed to construct this road with the assistance of World Bank;

(c) what is the total estimated amount to be spent on the road and completion time; and